

STARS AND STRIPES FIRST

ALLIED FLAG BRUGES SA W

American Resident Displayed His Colors as Soon as Germans Left. Tells of Experiences During Occupation—Kaiser Oppressed by Shadow of Retribution

By WALTER DURANTY

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Bruges, Oct. 28.—(By Courier to Zeebrugge.)

The stars and stripes was the first Allied flag flown in Bruges in the central square after the German evacuation. It was hung out by an American artist, S. Arlett Edwards, inventor of a color engraving process, who has been living in Bruges for the last five years. "We had been anxiously expecting the arrival of the Allies, for twenty-four hours," said Mr. Edwards to your correspondent, "and had prepared to string the flag and had arranged with the proprietor of the house opposite my rented apartment on the corner of the square—the Germans seized my house as soon as America entered the war—to hang it across."

"I was awakened at 6:30 o'clock Saturday morning by tremendous cheering and, looking out of the window, saw a Belgian private surrounded by an excited crowd. I dashed across in my dressing gown and had the flags up five minutes later. Then we hung out a copper kettle, the largest brass object hidden from the Germans. At first the people didn't understand the reason. Then they caught on and very soon there was a display of brass and copper at every window."

Mrs. Edwards gave the correspondent the hospitality of a bedroom and a delicious dinner in the newly liberated town—ham and eggs—almost the last of a huge store long prepared—whole meal bread made of flour ground at night, in a coffee mill from smuggled grain hidden at the bottom of an American steamer trunk; home-made jam, smuggled butter, coffee and sugar with condensed milk.

Fell Prussian Domination
Like most inhabitants of Bruges, the Edwards family had not suffered personally from the Germans, but had been made to feel the weight of Prussian domination nevertheless. During the first three years of the war the Germans had not molested them at all, although they were forced to obey the regulations as to being indoors after dark and producing papers at the Feldscharmerie at regular intervals.

Mr. Edwards had obtained a document bearing the official stamp from the American consul at Ghent, stating that his house was the property of an American citizen, which he affixed to his courtyard door. Gradually the impression spread among the poorer people that the house was the property of an American and now he is known throughout the city.

Constantly during the first three years people used to ask his advice and help in difficulties with the invaders, and he was able to redress many grievances by an appeal to the German chief of police, who behaved with cold courtesy.

Mrs. Edwards was a member of the local relief committee, and the couple's presence in Bruges undoubtedly contributed to relieve the German yoke. But when America entered the war there came an abrupt change. On the following day a file of marines appeared with a curt announcement that the house and its contents were requisitioned and that the family might take its clothing, but must leave within two hours. Mrs. Edwards was ill in bed during the forty-eight hours of grace, during which time sentries were posted with loaded rifles at all the doors. He also got leave to take his own work and making trials, books and papers, desk and three or four pieces of furniture, but the rest, including his automobile, was pitilessly seized.

Furniture Is Smashed
After eighteen months of German occupation the house was in a deplorable condition. The furniture, glassware and china were not only smashed, but pictures stolen and the frames and there was appalling dirt and disorder everywhere. Once, when the breaking of woodwork and crockery was clearly audible by the neighbors, Mr. Edwards was told roughly: "You damned Americans should have kept out of the war. You are the cause that we don't smash you instead of your furniture."

Fortunately, the family anticipated trouble and had laid in ample stores of provisions in the cellar of a friend and hidden a quantity of copperware and some choice pieces from a china collection. After America began fighting no letters might pass nor was one obtainable but French and English newspapers came, regularly, over a fortnight later, by an "underground route."

Though the relief committee functioned admirably, it was smuggling that provided the greater part of their food. To get milk, Mr. Edwards wore a special belt with a row of tiny bottles, which were filled at a farm on the outskirts of the town, and walked back unnoted. The trick was widely copied, and one day he learned that the German sentries had orders to pass their hands over the persons of those entering the town; and then condensed milk became a general necessity, though fresh milk was still smuggled occasionally. The Germans tried to keep the milk for themselves by sending soldiers to milk all cows twice daily. The Belgians replied by milking the cows at night, and when the boches arrived the cow was nearly dry.

Greed of Invaders
Especially during the last year the greed of the invaders increased amazingly enormously. By collusion with a German inspector, one cow was requisitioned—and paid for in cash—thirty different times each time the terms splitting the proceeds fifty-fifty with the inspector, who passed part of the graft to his superiors, according to the best low-brow traditions.

Another farmer had a pig which for three long years never passed the weight of sixty kilos. Sometimes a German would remark on the perennial youth-

fulness of the animal, whereupon the farmer would grin and stifle across a white mark note. A little later some one would be notified that pork and bacon were for sale, and from a dark cellar where fifteen pig litters were carefully concealed a new thin young porker would be removed to the farmer's sty.

The American corroborated what the correspondent heard elsewhere about the license and the debauchery of the U-boats. Lately when their losses became very heavy—once mounting, it was ascertained, to ten submarines from Bruges in a single week—you could tell the naval officer on active U-boat service by his haggard and slovenly appearance.

A Belgian civilian doctor said he had treated many cases of morphine and other poisoning among mere boys who did not dare reveal the vice to their own medical officers, or for that matter, the admiral of the U-boat men. They might stagger, yelling in drunken rhabdism in the streets with the lowest women on either arm, break windows or molest civilians; they might even insult officers of the army—they were never punished.

The colonel of the German police bureau was reported to have said when an American army captain complained of gross outrages offered him: "What do you want me to do? A fortnight's arrest for them means a fortnight's respite. These men are 'tode gewent' (consecrated to death). An Allied depth bomb will soon wipe out the memory of the insult you were forced to swallow."

In other respects German discipline was strictly maintained, though a relaxation was noticeable in the last three months. The soldiers were forced to stand rigid when an officer passed, and when passing an officer to do the goose step.

Schroder's Harshness Confirmed
Strongly pro-Ally from the outset, the Edwards family followed the example of the population in boycotting the German theatre and cinemas or cafes and restaurants where the Germans went.

Admiral Schroder saw it that the behavior of troops in the streets was generally good enough. Mr. Edwards confirmed Schroder's harshness. In regard to Schroder, Mr. Edwards said: "We had a startling demonstration last year of the British attitude toward Frey's murder. Officers and men of an English regiment captured at Nieuport were made to file past the admiral standing at the foot of the belfry in the center square of Bruges. Every one of his back on Schroder as they marched past. A few days later the admiral posted a proclamation throughout the city to the effect that incident had been reported in a Dutch newspaper in a manner reflecting in his Excellency. His Excellency regarded this as proof that the British were not so generous in their communication with Holland, and accordingly gave the inhabitants warning not only that the persons concerned in the espionage would be treated with the utmost severity, but that if any other case occurred of the Dutch press reproducing the events in Bruges derogatory to Germany and its contents were requisitioned and that the family might take its clothing, but must leave within two hours."

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BOLSHEVIK PAPER RAPS REPUBLICS

Declares France, Switzerland and America Are All Weak

SPEECH BY ZENVIENOFF

Petrograd Commissioner Tells of Failure of His University for Peasants

By ARTHUR COPPING
Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Archangel, Oct. 30.

From a battlefield prisoner we have just taken a copy of the October 10 issue of The Red Army, a Bolshevik Moscow daily paper. It leads off in display lines of optimistic sensationalism, including "poor rising against rich, Siberia ablaze, fiery rebellion, arising against each other are two enemies, work and capital, poor and bourgeois, in Germany revolution has started, soldiers are going against their officers, waving red flags and singing revolutionary songs."

In the first article it was all about the Bolshevik like wild animals. "When all Russia was under the despotism of the Romanoff family we looked enviously to the republican powers, we dreamed of the freedom of France, Switzerland and America as something we could never attain. Now we know the weakness of all bourgeois republics. We know the word democracy is associated with the word republic only to cheat the people. In free America, so called, the gross exploitation of work produces millionaires and steel kings."

An account of the meeting of the Moscow Soviet on October 8 begins: "We are feverishly awaiting the eve of the western European revolution."

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MOVE FOR PEACE IN CHINA

Japan to Join U. S. and Britain in Ending Civil Strife

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Peking, Oct. 30.—America and Great Britain having declined to interfere in Chinese internal affairs without the association of the former Powers to join in tendering advice to the President and the leaders of north and south with a view to healing their differences and offering their services as mediators.

Meanwhile the southern Tschang are expected to assemble at Peking. It is expected that their decisions, unlike those of previous conferences will prove to be pacific. Hitherto there has been no definite proposal for a settlement on either side, but simply vague abstractions.

ALLIES TO TREAT ALL FOES ALIKE

Terms to Austria and Turkey to Be Same as Germany's

DECIDED AT VERSAILLES

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. London, Oct. 30.

The diplomatic correspondent of the Chronicle writes: "It is no secret that the Inter-Allied conference at Versailles has discussed the terms of the armistice to be granted to Germany, Austria, and Turkey. Whether those terms will be published is a matter of policy which will be determined by a conference."

"There is no reason to believe that Austria's and Turkey's application for an armistice, when the latter is officially before the associated Governments, which is not yet the case, will be treated differently from Germany's. Austria's latest note is regarded as an unqualified surrender as well as a demand for immediate peace—that is, without waiting for the conference which will settle the affairs of her partner."

"This may or may not be a use to help Germany to deal with her internal situation by enabling her to plead desertion by her Allies as a reason for her predicament. In any case, the reply to Austria and Turkey is likely to be the same."

"Apply to the commander in the field for an armistice. The question of peace conditions will be settled later, the Allied attitude toward Austria, may well be identical with that toward Germany, except as regards the constitutional guarantees, which do not apply here."

"In the case of Turkey, the Bulgarian precedent will probably be followed. Credence should not be given to the reports of peace overtures from Turkey coming through Switzerland. Turkish agents have been at work in Switzerland for months past, but their pretended powers have not been taken seriously. The official channel has been Washington."

"On October 12, Turkey addressed a request to President Wilson to ascertain the terms of an armistice from the associated Governments. America not being at war with Turkey, the President was acting as intermediary. No reply has been given to the request for information, but one is obviously due, and that it will correctly convey the demand of Greece and the Power most nearly interested, and of her associates may be taken for granted."

"Such is the present position. The question of peace conditions has not arisen, and consequently they are not likely to engage the attention of Versailles at this time, hence the Balkans have not been under discussion."

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PRISONERS SAY LINE WILL RUN FROM ANTWERP TO NAMUR

By the Associated Press

With the British Armies in France and Belgium, Oct. 30.—Between October 10 and 22, various administrative departments were packing up and leaving Brussels for Germany. According to prisoners of war, these preparations were made to make their withdrawal from the Lyx to Ghent, according to statements of prisoners. These prisoners said Ghent would not be defended for more than three or four hours, after which a further withdrawal would be made to the line of Dendre River and Antwerp.

SHOOT DOWN WORKERS

Fire Into Socialist Crowd Celebrating Prince Max's Acceptance of Wilson Program

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. Stockholm, Oct. 30.

From Warsaw the Social Democrat hears that when Prince Max in the Reichstag accepted President Wilson's program there were great rejoicings in

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DUTCH FRONTIER NOW GUARDED BY BELGIANS

Fall of Ghent and Retreat of Whole German Flank Is Expected Daily

Special Cable to Evening Public Ledger Copyright, 1918, by New York Times Co. St. Etienne, Oct. 25 (delayed).

Where a few days ago the Germans vigilantly guarded the Belgian-Dutch frontier are Belgian sentries, smiling and ready to be once again in their own country.

They are men who advanced with the Belgian army, proud to have freed their adopted country.

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Hart Schaffner & Marx

Clothes that save

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